Indignation amongst general staff in AIR and Doordarshan

1286. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that staff in general in AIR/Doordarshan is dissatisfied with the meagre channels of promotion avenues particularly in Staff Artist cadres and also those who have been converted as Govt. servants;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this situation has forced them to approach various Courts including the Central Administrative Tribunals for seeking justice; and

(c) if so, what is the number of such court cases filed by Staff of AIR/Doordarshan including Staff Artists in Supreme Court, High Courts, Labour Courts, Central Administrative Tribunals etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No one from the Staff Artist cadre in AIR has filed any suit in any Court or Tribunal alleging that the available channels of promotion are meagre. As regards Doordarshan, out of a total of 42 categories of Staff Artists including those who have been converted as Government servants or redesignated as Artists, some individuals in the 4 categories only have filed applications in Supreme Court/Industrial Tribunal rising issue of their promotional avenues.

Maximum permissible standard deduction for income-tax purpose

1287. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the maximum permissible standard deduction for Income-Tax purpose; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Government do not have any proposal to change the maximum permissible standard deduction, under section 16 (i) of the Income-tax Act in respect of income from salaries.

(b) The standard deduction in respect of income from salaries was raised from 'Rs. 6,000 or 25% of the salary whichever is less' to Rs. 10,000 or 30% of salary whichever is less' by the Finance Act, 1986 w.e.f. 1-4-1987. Taking into account further deductions in respect of compulsory savings like contributions to the provident fund and optional savings like the life insurance premia etc., most of the persons receiving gross salary upto Rs. 34,000 will not be liable to pay income-tax. In view of this and overall economic policy, the Government do not propose to change the maximum permissible standard deduction under section 16(i) of the Income-tax Act.

Seniority case in Chief Administrative Officers office under the ministry of defence.

1288. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Administrative Officer withdrew from the defence of the court case, challenging seniority of Assistants in the Supreme Court in April 1985, which had been fixed according to the provisions of Armed Forces Civil Service Rules 1968;

(b) whether this lapse in not defending the case has resulted in